

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /075 W

-----047113 262003Z /63

O R 261905Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3318

INFO RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 1435

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2532

FOR MCGEE FROM WHITE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN IAHRC REPORT

REF: STATE 161652

1. AS I AM AWARE OF HOW FAST-BREAKING THESE SITUATIONS ARE, I HAVE HASTILY SET DOWN MY THOUGHTS ON THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISE. I HOPE YOU FIND THEM COHERENT AND OF SOME HELP. I AM ALSO AWARE THAT THE TACTICAL SITUATION MAY BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN I IMAGINE IT TO BE. THERE IS NO WORSE EXPERT THAN THE GUY WHO USED TO BE THERE.

2. PRESUMABLY THERE WILL BE TWO RESOLUTIONS, ONE ON PARAGUAY AND ONE ON URUGUAY. THERE MAY BE A MOVE TO HAVE ONE RESOLUTION COVERING BOTH COUNTRIES. I AGREE THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION WITH EL SALVADOR; I BELIEVE JUST AS STRONGLY THAT IF THERE ARE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WISH US TO CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION OR RESOLUTIONS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY, THEN WE SHOULD JOIN THEM. NOT TO CO-SPONSOR WITH GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, JAMAICA, ETC., WOULD BE VIEWED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE STRONG SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE OPENING OF THE OAS GA AND A  
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RETREAT FROM OUR POSITION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH I AM AWARE THAT WOULD DICTATE ANYTHING OTHER THAN SOLID UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE IAHRC AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE OTHER DEMOCRACIES OF THE HEMISPHERE. IN THIS CONTEXT, PARAGUAY'S WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT THE IAHRC WITHOUT STRINGS OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND IS CRUCIAL. IF PARAGUAY RESPONDS POSITIVELY THEN WE SHOULD

REWARD PARAGUAY BY SEPARATE RESOLUTION, PERHAPS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: THE GA:

- A) CONGRATULATES THE IAHRC FOR ITS EXCELLENT REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PARAGUAY;
- B) REAFFIRMS THE CONCERN OF THE GA OVER THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE JURIDICAL GUARANTEES AND FREQUENT ARBITRARY ACTS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY (OR OTHER APPROPRIATE QUOTE FROM THE IAHRC REPORT);
- C) NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS MADE BY PARAGUAY SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE IAHRC REPORT, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ITS INVITATION TO THE COMMISSION TO VISIT PARAGUAY;
- D) TRUSTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY WILL CONTINUE TO PUT INTO EFFECT MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE AND ASSURE THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY; AND
- E) REQUESTS THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY TO COOPERATE PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH THE IAHRC IN ORDER THAT THE COMMISSION CAN CARRY OUT ITS IMPORTANT DUTIES.

4. IF PARAGUAY IN DOES NOT INVITE THE IAHRC I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE LUMP PARAGUAY IN WITH URUGUAY AND CO-SPONSOR A STRONG RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD (A) ADMONISH BOTH COUNTRIES FOR THEIR FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH THE IAHRC, (B) GIVE THE IAHRC A SPECIFIC WATCHING BRIEF OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, AND (C) REQUEST THE IAHRC TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THESE TWO COUNTRIES TO THE NEXT GA.

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5. ONE GENERAL OBSERVATION: IT IS A MISTAKE TO BELIEVE THAT WE EARN CREDIT OR UNDERSTANDING WITH GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, NICARAGUA, ETC., IF WE SOFTEN OUR STANCE IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUESTS AND ENTREATIES. WE INTERPRET THESE PRESSURES CORRECTLY IF WE THINK OF THEM AS PROBES DESIGNED TO TEST HOW SOLID IS OUR COMMITMENT AND HOW FAR THESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO GO TO SATISFY US. THOSE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY WHO HAVE INSISTED THAT THE U.S. WAS SERIOUS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE PERCEPTIBLY RELIEVED WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH TO THE GA REAFFIRMED OUR POLICY. IF CARTER'S SPEECH HAD BEEN LESS UNEQUIVOCAL, IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN AID AND COMFORT TO THOSE WITHIN THESE GOVERNMENTS WHO ADVOCATE BARBARIC PRACTICES TO MAINTAIN CONTROL. AT THIS OAS GA WE NEED HAVE NO GUILTY FEELINGS ABOUT TAKING A FIRM LINE ON URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY AS IT IS THE IAHRC AND NOT THE U.S. WHICH HAS SINGLED OUT THESE COUNTRIES FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

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## Message Attributes

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